



## Questions & Answers About Premiums For Children's Medical Coverage

The 2004 Legislature passed a law requiring premiums (a monthly charge) for some children on Medical Assistance. Below are questions and answers explaining premiums.

---

**When do I have to start paying premiums?**

Premiums begin in July. In mid-June, you were mailed a DSHS letter explaining premiums, listing your children with premiums, and giving the amount due. You will be mailed a statement (bill) in early July for July's coverage. Premiums are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

---

**Do *all* children have premiums?**

No. Many children will not have premiums. Children who are pregnant or below age and income requirements will *not* have premiums.

---

**How much are premiums for each child?**

Premiums will be \$10 or \$15 a month based on the child's age and the family's income. Here are some examples of children in a **family of 4** who will have to pay premiums:

\$10 a month premium for each child

Children age 0 to 1 with family income above \$2,907 a month.

Children age 1 to 19 with family income above \$2,357 a month.

\$15 a month premium for each child

Children age 0 to 19 with family income above \$3,142 a month.

**Note:** A family pays for no more than 3 children—even if there are more children in the family.

---

**When will I receive a premium bill?**

You will receive a premium bill at the beginning of every month. This bill will not be mailed with your medical Identification card.

---

**How do I pay my premium?**

You can pay with a personal check or with a money order. You cannot pay by credit card at this time. Use the envelope with the statement for your DSHS premium payment only— please do *not* use it for other mail.

---

**What if I cannot pay my premium?**

If you get more than 2 months behind in your premium payments, medical coverage will stop for those children who have premiums. To get coverage again, you will have to pay the balance owed and wait 3 months for coverage.

---

**Once premiums begin, how do I know if DSHS received my payment?**

Beginning in July, you can call *The Answer Phone* at 1-877-980-9220 to check on premium payments. You can also call this convenient toll-free line for other helpful services.



**Questions about premiums?** Call Medical Assistance at 1-800-562-3022 (TTY/TDD only 1-800-848-5429), Monday thru Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

June 2004

